

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/890,444

Examiner

Majid A Banankhah

Applicant(s)

MIHIC, MATTHEW A

Art Unit

2127

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/28/01.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 07/28/01 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 07/28/01
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

MAJID BANANKHAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER



**Examiner's Statement of Reason For Allowance**

1.

1. The prior art of record does not teach nor fairly suggest a method, and system for controlling a table containing a list of active objects. The table is accessed by one or more threads in a multi-threaded computing environment. The method includes the steps of mutex locking the table with a first thread when activating an object provided that the table is not locked by a second thread, and creating an entry for the object in the table when the entry does not exist in the table, wherein the entry includes a reference count. The method also include the steps of incrementing the reference count of the object if the table is locked by the second thread, and unlocking the table from the mutex lock after incrementing the reference count whether or not the object is completely activated.

The method may also provide the steps of etherealizing the object only when the reference count of the object is zero, and incrementing a reactivation count if the object is etherealizing when the first thread attempts to activate the object, wherein the entry of the table further includes the reactivation count. Further, the method can also comprise the steps of broadcasting the reactivation count to wake any waiting object to reactivate the etherealized object, and decrementing the reference count after dispatching a request on the object. It should be noted that the method can also include the step of deactivating the object only when the reference count is equal to zero.

**Conclusion:**

2. The cited prior art of record lacks sufficient scope and implementation detail to fairly teach or suggest the combination of limitations claimed in the instant invention when the claimed

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means are interpreted in light of Applicant's specification, in accordance with the mandatory examination procedures set forth under M.P.E.P. §2181 C (7th Edition, revised Feb. 1, 2000).

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Applicant is reminded that any change to the order, numbering or substance of the drawing must be accompanied by a corresponding amendment to the specification reflecting the changes set forth in the formal drawing.

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Majid A. Banankhah** whose telephone number is (571) 272-3770. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday – Thursday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached on (571) 272-3756.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Majid A. Banankhah

2/7/05

MAJID BANANKHAH  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
